



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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Public Hearing – March 1, 2010 Environment Committee

**Testimony Submitted by Larry Marsicano, Executive Director
Candlewood Lake Authority
February 25, 2010**

***In Support of*
HB 5421 – AN ACT CONCERNING CANDLEWOOD LAKE**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Members of Environment Committee:

Due in large part to your support of last year's HB 5823 – *AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECREATIONAL USE OF CANDLEWOOD LAKE*, I am excited to be here to 1) thank you for that support and 2) express the support of the Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA) for this year's HB 5421 – *AN ACT CONCERNING CANDLEWOOD LAKE*. As specified in last year's legislation, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has taken a close look, albeit an initial close look, at the recreational boating issues at Candlewood, and has developed a consensus among the municipal leaders around the lake on the recommendations you received in the letter from CTDEP Commissioner Marrella dated February 1, 2010. Those recommendations would seem to have played a part in the Environment Committee's putting forward HB 5421. I stress "*an initial close look*" above since during our meetings the CTDEP acknowledged that Candlewood's issues are not confined to boat length and they committed to continue to work and meet with our municipalities to address some of the other related issues, which we are delighted about.

The development of a boat size limit will be an excellent first step in addressing some of the recreational boating and environmental issues on Candlewood Lake. Although the

CTDEP's data indicate that only 110 of the 4,300 motorized boats on Candlewood were 26 feet or larger, I would contend that real issue is the gradual increase in the average boat size on the lake over time. Larger boats beget larger boats. After getting "swamped" in your 18 foot boat from the wakes of other boats on the weekend for several years, your next boat purchase will be for something bigger. This is the genesis of the trend for larger boats and I contend we have seen that trend on Candlewood Lake. Therefore, a maximum size must be established before the average size is 26 feet or greater.

Last year I presented written testimony on HB 5823 which provided some background and characterized our recreational boating issues at Candlewood Lake. I suspect that testimony is still available to you. This past year the CLA compiled a 66-page report entitled AN EXAMINATION OF RECREATIONAL PRESSURES ON CANDLEWOOD LAKE, CT which has been submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as part of the post licensing process, specifically the development of a Shoreline Management Plan. The document includes information on our annual boat count, public ramp access, in-use vessel levels and densities, boating accident data (compiled by the US Coast Guard), and forecasts of future recreational boating pressures. I have brought 40 copies for you. The document is available on the Candlewood Lake Authority Website at www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org. From there put your cursor over INFORMATION RESOURCES, click PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS, and find REPORT ON THE RECREATIONAL PRESSURES ON CANDLEWOOD LAKE as well the poster on Candlewood's in-use boating densities we presented at the recent North American Lakes Management Society in Hartford last October. These documents should certainly supplement the report and data collections of the CTDEP since last August.

I hope you will be as supportive of HB 5421 as you were of HB 5823, and I, on behalf of the CLA, thank you and the Committee for your time and efforts.